

REMARKS

Claims 61-77 remain in this application. Claims 37-60 have been cancelled without prejudice to their subsequent reinstatement. Claims 61-77 have been added. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

New Claims Believed To Be Allowable

Claim 61 recites a system comprising *“adjusting a first height adjustable spacer having a first top surface so that the first top surface extends over a top surface of a hot plate by a first distance; adjusting a second height adjustable spacer having a second top surface so that the second top surface extends over the top surface of the hot plate by a second distance, wherein the second distance is different than the first distance; placing a substrate having an exposed radiation sensitive layer over the first and second top surfaces of the first and second height adjustable spacers; and heating the radiation sensitive layer with the hot plate”*. These limitations are not taught or suggested by U.S. Patent No. 6,100,012 to Shi and U.S. Patent No. 6,169,274 to Kulp, taken either alone or in combination (which combination does not even seem appropriate). In particular, there is no teaching or suggestion that the pins in Kulp may extend above the surface at different distances. Accordingly, for at least this reason, claim 61 is believed to be allowable. Claims 62-69 depend from claim 61 and are believed to be allowable therefor, as well as for the recitations set forth in each of these claims.

Claim 70 recites a system comprising *“placing a substrate having a resist layer over a top surface of a hot plate so that different regions of the resist layer are separated from the top surface of the hot plate by different distances; and heating the resist layer by transferring different quantities of heat from the top surface of the hot*

plate to the different regions of the resist layer". These limitations are not taught or suggested by U.S. Patent No. 6,100,012 to Shi and U.S. Patent No. 6,169,274 to Kulp, taken either alone or in combination (which combination does not even seem appropriate). In particular, there is no teaching or suggestion that the pins in Kulp may extend above the surface at different distances. Accordingly, for at least this reason, claim 70 is believed to be allowable. Claims 71-77 depend from claim 70 and are believed to be allowable therefor, as well as for the recitations set forth in each of these claims.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed at the earliest possible date.

Request For Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call Brent E. Vecchia at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request For An Extension Of Time

The Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 for such an extension.

Charge Our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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